

C2 14/16 An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition contains protein in an amount of up to 25%, lipids in an amount of up to 50%, and carbohydrates in an amount of up to 60%.

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 12-14, as amended, and new claims 15 and 16 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claim 2 was amended to correct an inadvertent error where a means clause was omitted. A listing of changes to claim 2 can be found in Appendix A.

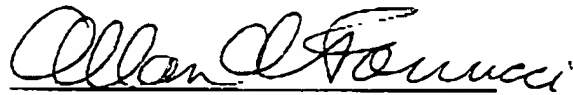
Claims 15 and 16 have been added to cover additional embodiments of the invention. These claims are supported by the specification on page 4, lines 11-12 and 19-20 respectively. As no new matter is being introduced, the entry of these claims at this time is warranted.

The new claims are patentable by virtue of their dependency from allowed claim 1. Also, applicants request that these new claims appear as claims 10 and 11 in the issued patent. A listing of all current claims as they should appear in the patent is attached to this amendment as Appendix B for the Examiner's convenience.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. Should any fees be due, however, please charge such fees to Winston & Strawn Deposit Account No. 501-814.

Respectfully submitted,

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Allan A. Fanucci (Reg. No. 30256)

WINSTON & STRAWN
200 Park Avenue
New York, New York, 10166

(212) 294-3311

Enclosures

APPENDIX A--MARKED UP VERSION

IN THE CLAIMS

2. (amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pumping means comprises means for varying the volume of the chamber.

APPENDIX B--PENDING CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for modifying and feeding a liquid nutritional feeding composition comprising:

a chamber comprising at least one beneficial agent for modifying a liquid nutritional feeding composition, the chamber having an inlet connectable to a container that contains the nutritional feeding composition and an outlet connectable to a feeding means, and

a pumping means associated with the chamber wherein said pumping means is adapted for pumping the nutritional feeding composition from the container into the chamber and back into the container to mix the beneficial agent and the nutritional feeding composition.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pumping means comprises means for varying the volume of the chamber.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the chamber comprises at least one flexible wall capable of being squeezed and released for pumping of the nutritional feeding composition.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the chamber comprises at least one beneficial agent selected from the group consisting of nutrients, probiotics, medicaments, diagnostic agents, and mixtures thereof.

5. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one beneficial agent is dispersible in the nutritional feeding composition in less than 1 min.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one beneficial agent is dispersible in the nutritional feeding composition in less than 30 sec.

7. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the volume of beneficial agent constitutes from 30% to 50% of the volume of the chamber.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inlet is provided with a hollow spike for piercing a port on the container to create a fluid path for the nutritional feeding composition.
9. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the feeding means comprises a hollow spike for piercing the outlet of the chamber to create a fluid path for the nutritional feeding composition with the beneficial agent.
10. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the volume of beneficial agent constitutes from 30% to 50% of the volume of the chamber.
11. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition contains protein in an amount of up to 25%, lipids in an amount of up to 50%, and carbohydrates in an amount of up to 60%.
12. A method for modifying and feeding a liquid nutritional feeding composition comprising:
connecting a chamber according to claim 1 to a container comprising a liquid nutritional feeding composition,
pumping liquid feeding composition into the chamber and liquid nutritional feeding composition and beneficial agent back to the container to mix the nutritional feeding composition with the beneficial agent,
connecting the feeding means to the outlet of the chamber, and
allowing the modified nutritional feeding composition to flow through the chamber into the feeding means.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the feeding involves enterally supplying the liquid nutritional feeding composition.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the feeding involves intravenously supplying the liquid nutritional feeding composition.